

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03

ACDA-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 NSC-05 OMB-01 USIE-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

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EUR/RPE:ECAMPBELL

DOD/ISA:LTC BARRETT

EUR/CE: GHUMPHREY

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO

DOD PRIORITY

CINCPAC PRIORITY

CINCEUR PRIORITY

USAREUR PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 173399

CINCPAC, CINCEUR ALSO FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, JA, GW, XG, NATO

SUBJECT: JAPANESE INTEREST IN NATO LABOR ARRANGEMENTS

REF: A. BONN 11774, B. BONN 11262

1. THE DEPARTMENT AND DOD ARE NOW COORDINATING SCHEDULE  
OF APPOINTMENTS FOR GOJ FACT-FINDING GROUP'S STAY IN

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WASHINGTON JULY 19 AND 20, AND WILL PASS IT TO ADDRESSEES

SOONEST. MEANWHILE, WE REQUEST YOUR COOPERATION WITH GOJ OFFICIALS IN PLANNING APPOINTMENTS WITH US OFFICIALS IN FRG. WE BELIEVE APPROPRIATE TO SCHEDULE BRIEFINGS ON LABOR AT USAREUR HEIDLEBURG. FOLLOWING ARE STATE - DOD VIEWS WITH RESPECT CONCERN EXPRESSED REF B.

2. APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS ON THE JAPANESE PROPOSAL TO SEND A MISSION TO THE US AND TO EUROPE TO STUDY LABOR COST-SHARING. WHILE IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO RULE OUT ENTIRELY EVENTUAL JAPANESE USE OF PARTS OF THEIR STUDY RESULTS TO OUR DISADVANTAGE, THE DEPARTMENT DOES NOT THINK THIS IS A SERIOUS CONTINGENCY. THE JAPANESE FONOFF

HAS IN THE PAST SENT INDIVIDUAL OFFICERS TO OTHER COUNTRIES TO STUDY SOFA ARRANGEMENTS, E.G. TAKANO TO LONDON, BRUSSELS AND BONN IN 1973 TO STUDY CRIMINAL JURISDICTION. AS FAR AS WE ARE AWARE, THE GOJ HAS USED RESULTS OF SUCH STUDIES TO DEFEND EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS IN JAPAN BEFORE THE DIET, AND NOT TO PRESS FOR DETRIMENTAL CHANGES IN THE AGREEMENT. THE GOJ HAS BEEN CONSISTENTLY RELUCTANT TO MAKE ANY CHANGES IN SOFA ARRANGEMENTS FOR FEAR THAT HE OPPOSITION PARTIES WOULD DEMAND A GENERAL OVERHAUL.

3. IN THE MILITARY LABOR FIELD, THE GOJ HAS BEEN TORN BETWEEN THIS DESIRE NOT TO ROCK THE BOAT, AND THE NEED TO DO MORE TO HELP EASE OUR DEFENSE BURDEN IN JAPAN. IN RECENT YEARS, THE GOJ HAS BEEN HELPING US IN AREAS THAT ARE MORE EASILY JUSTIFIABLE LEGALLY AND POLITICALLY, E.G. ASSUMING THE ENORMOUS COSTS OF US-INITIATED PLANS TO CONSOLIDATE AND REBUILD OUR FACILITIES TO EFFECT COST-SAVINGS. ONLY IN RECENT MONTHS HAVE THE JAPANESE BEGUN TO FOCUS ON LOCAL LABOR COSTS AS A POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL AREA FOR BURDEN-SHARING. THE STUDY MISSION TO NATO COUNTRIES IS, WE BELIEVE, A SERIOUS GOJ EFFORT TO IDENTIFY THOSE AREAS IN WHICH IT CAN MAKE A MEANINGFUL FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION BUT WITH MINIMAL INTERNAL POLITICAL REPERCUSSIONS. THE GOJ UNDOUBTEDLY VIEWS LABOR COST-SHARING AS A MEANS TO SLOW DOWN THE DRAWDOWN OF OUR FORCES IN JAPAN AND REDUCE LOCAL LAYOFFS AND RESULTING UNREST. WE HAVE NO QUID TO OFFER THE JAPANESE OTHER THAN THE ANTICIPATION OF THESE

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DEVELOPMENTS.

4. WE BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT TO MAINTAIN THE MOMENTUM. WE ARE ENCOURAGED TO LEARN THAT THERE IS GENERAL AGREEMENT WITHIN THE GOJ ON THE NEED FOR LABOR COST-SHARING, AND THE FONOFF HAS SET THE FALL OF 1977 AS A SELF-IMPOSED DEADLINE FOR COMING UP WITH A BUDGET PROGRAM. THE DEPARTMENT AND DOD ARE EXAMINING THOSE LABOR ARRANGEMENTS IN NATO

COUNTRIES TOWARD WHICH WE MAY WISH TO STEER THE JAPANESE  
STUDY TEAM.

5. DOD CONCURS. KISSINGER

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